

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, August 26, 2005

MPDC STRESSES SAFETY IN AND AROUND DC PUBLIC SCHOOLS THIS YEAR

The new school year in DC brings important changes to school safety management and operations. Under legislation passed by the DC Council and signed by Mayor Williams earlier this year, the MPDC assumed overall management responsibility for school security beginning with the 2005-06 school year. The Department has worked hard to develop a school security plan that will enhance safety in and around DC Public Schools through a coordinated effort involving both private security personnel and sworn police officers. DC-based Hawk One Security has been awarded the school security contract, and the hiring, screening and assignment of more than 300 school security personnel have been completed. The new school security contract places much higher performance standards on private security personnel. Guards must meet minimum educational and background standards, and they must undergo more frequent and rigorous training and drug tests. Also this year, the MPDC is maintaining its enhanced presence in the schools: 99 School Resource Officers, plus 15 field supervisors. They are supported by a new School Security Division, led by Assistant Chief Gerald Wilson, that includes three lieutenants (one per ROC) and a captain. In addition, contract monitors are in place to ensure that the provisions of the school security contract are strictly followed. The Department is also implementing a traffic safety plan in and around the schools, to ensure that students and parents can walk to school safely. New crossing guards have been hired, and traffic enforcement in school zones (both traditional and automated) will be enhanced over the next few weeks.

① For questions or additional information about school safety efforts, e-mail Captain Keith Williams at:
keith.williams@dc.gov.

① For a variety of informative and helpful resources on school violence and safety, visit:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,547515,mpdcNav_GID,1549,mpdcNav,|.asp

① While most students in DC walk or are driven to school, many do ride school buses. School bus safety tips – for drivers, students and parents – are available at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,547501,mpdcNav_GID,1549,mpdcNav,|.asp

NEW SCHOOL YEAR BRINGS EARLIER START TO WEEKDAY TEEN CURFEW IN DC

With students returning to school, the MPDC reminds young people and their families that DC's teen curfew begins an hour earlier on weeknights. Starting Thursday, September 1 and continuing through next June, curfew for young people under the age of 17 begins at 11 pm on Sunday through Thursday nights, and continues until 6 am the following day. On weekend nights, curfew begins at 12:01 am, and ends at 6 the next morning. During the months of July and August only, curfew hours are from 12:01 am to 6 am, seven nights a week. Under DC law, persons under the age of 17 cannot remain in or on a street, park or other outdoor public place, in a vehicle or on the premises of any establishment within the District of Columbia during curfew hours, unless they are accompanied by a parent or guardian or are involved in certain exempted activities such as work, school, religious, civic or organized recreational activities. The law applies to all young people who are in the District during curfew hours, regardless of whether they reside inside or outside the city. As part of its juvenile crime prevention strategy, the MPDC has stepped up enforcement of the curfew law. As of August 20, MPDC officers had cited 2,123 curfew violators during 2005. This year's figure is already 74 percent higher the 1,219 curfews issued in all of 2004.

① Additional information about the District's curfew law, including penalties for violators and their parents, is available at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/curfew>

① Need information about positive alternatives for young people? Click on:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,547305&mpdcNav_GID,1549,asp

POLICE TARGET AGGRESSIVE DRIVERS IN FINAL WAVE OF SMOOTH OPERATOR 2005

Speeders, red-light runners, tailgaters and other aggressive drivers ... beware. For the two weeks beginning August 28, police will be on special lookout for aggressive drivers and will be issuing tickets to violators. And not just in DC, but in many parts of Maryland and Virginia as well, officers will be paying special attention to traffic offenses such as running red lights and stop signs; following too closely, or tailgating; changing lanes unsafely; failing to yield the right of way; improper passing; and speeding. It's all part of the regional Smooth Operator program that, since 1997, has combined education and enforcement to help tame aggressive driving during the summer months. The fourth and final "wave" of Smooth Operator enforcement takes place from August 28 through September 10. During the first three waves of this year's Smooth Operator program, police in the DC region issued nearly 225,000 tickets, up from about 193,000 during the same period of Smooth Operator 2004. The MPDC issued more than 55,000 tickets — both traditional and automated enforcement citations — during the first three waves of Smooth Operator. In addition to local and state law enforcement, Smooth Operator is supported by other government agencies and organizations from the private sector. Enforcement efforts are complemented by a comprehensive public education campaign that includes radio and transit ads.

SUCCESS STORY: PSA 603 COMES TOGETHER TO COMBAT CRIME IN A SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY

Police and community members in PSA 603 have been working hard — and creatively — to combat crime in their Southeast community. Last fall, residents from the 100-200 blocks of 36th Street, SE — many of them seniors who are long-time residents — attended the monthly PSA 603 meeting to complain about the ongoing suspected drug trafficking, prostitution and nuisance apartment buildings in this area. Lieutenant Samuel Snyder immediately focused attention on this area with expanded foot and bicycle officers. The community outreach coordinator organized residents into a new walk group, "The 36th Street Walkers," which not only strolled in the community but also organized neighborhood clean-ups. The Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs began looking into the complaints about nuisance and abandoned properties. Then in late spring, PSA 603 and the Ward 7 Core Team organized an Operation Fight Back in the Green Way Shopping Center on 36th Street, SE. With members of the "Walkers" pointing out areas of concern, city agencies removed 29 tons of debris, towed 10 abandoned autos, issued numerous fire code and health violations, and distributed health, employment and safety information in the community. Lieutenant Snyder and his PSA 603 team are continuing to monitor the area.

NEWS & NOTES

National Stop on Red Week. August 28 through September 2 is National Stop on Red Week. Organized by the National Campaign to Stop Red Light Running, National Stop on Red Week is designed to educate Americans about the dangers of running red lights and the need for additional laws and programs to stop this dangerous and illegal practice. Details at <http://www.stoppedlightrunning.com>.

Civilian Management Opportunities in the MPDC. The MPDC is continuing to accept applications for two civilian management positions in the agency: a community policing program manager and a fingerprint analysis manager. For details on the two positions, including salaries and application information, go to <http://mpdc.dc.gov/civilianemploy>.

① Additional information is at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1240,Q,547928,mpdcNav_GID,1552,mpdcNav,1,asp

① For more information and pictures, go to:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,A,1239,Q,557945.asp>

① Have a "success story" you would like publicized on the MPDC website? Contact your district's community outreach coordinator or e-mail marsha.hott@dc.gov.

DATA BOX

Homicides	as of 8/26/05
◆ 2005: 121	
◆ 2004: 124	
◆ % Change: -2.4%	
◆ Closure Rate: 55.4% (67 closures)	
Adult Arrests	week end. 8/20/05
◆ Total: 1,034	
◆ Drugs: 192	
◆ Weapons: 30	
◆ Motor Vehicle Theft: 11	
◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 78	
Juvenile Activity	week end. 8/20/05
◆ Arrests: 51	
◆ Curfew Violations: 129	
◆ Truants: 0	
Firearm Recoveries	as of 8/24/05
◆ August: 136	
◆ 2005 Total: 1,523	
Traffic Fatalities	as of 8/26/05
◆ 2005: 26	
◆ 2004: 35	
◆ % Change: --25.7%	

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

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